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|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                               | 09/301,749             | POWELL ET AL.       |  |
|                               | Examiner               | Art Unit            |  |
|                               | CUONG H. NGUYEN        | 3661                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 1/15/06.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 19,21-24,26,28-29,31-34; they are renumbered as claims 1-12. Formal dwgs are accepted by examiner.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                 | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material           | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

*CAN*

CUONG H. NGUYEN  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3661

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is the answer to the RCE filed on 1/15/2006.
2. Claims 19, 21-24, 26, 28-29, and 31-34 are pending.

### ***Priority***

3. This application claims a filing date of 4/29/1999.

### **Drawing**

4. This application is filed with formal drawings on 1/15/2006, and they are accepted by the examiner.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter & Reasons for Allowance***

5. Independent claim 19 is patentable over the closest references of Ken Powell (US Pat. 5,884,278, and US Pat. 6,456,980), because these prior art are not proper to use for a rejection (previous disclosures can not be used for rejections on co-pending applications filings of the same assignee after 11/1999), besides other limitations, comprising:

- a system includes a plurality of second processing units different from the first processing units, each second processing unit executing a second program in a second memory to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals from the electromagnetic detector, in a respective one of the cash register stations, with the third signals read by the card interface, in the respective one of the cash register stations, wherein each second processing unit is in the respective one of the cash register stations.

5. Independent claim 29 is patentable over the closest references of Ken Powell (US Pat. 5,884,278, and US Pat. 6,456,980), because these prior art are not proper to use for a rejection (previous disclosures can not be used for rejections on co-pending applications filings of the same assignee after 11/1999), besides other limitations, comprising:

- a first processing unit that executes a first program in a first memory to correlate second signals with first signals, and a second processing unit different from the first processing unit, responsive to a signal on the signal path, that executes a second program in a second memory, to determine a discount quantity by correlating second signals with third signals from the card memory of one of the plurality of cards, wherein the first processing unit determines a total amount due by receiving a fourth signal from the second processing unit, wherein the fourth signal corresponds to a discount tender.

6. Claims 21-24, 26, 28, and 31-34 are allowed because they are dependent on allowable claims 19, and 29.

*Conclusion*

7. Pending claims are patentable.

Claims 19, 21-24, 26, 28-29, and 31-34 are renumbered as claims 1-12, in that order.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 17:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

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more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
CUONG H. NGUYEN  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3661